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January 23, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would like to express my views regarding this antitrust case. I feel that the settlement agreement reached between Microsoft and your office is fair and reasonable, and is sufficient to close this case at the federal level. Nine states have approved the agreement, and Microsoft is negotiating with the remaining states to reach an agreement.

Under the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to change the way it licenses, develops, and markets its software. Computer makers, consumers, and software engineers will be allowed to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft programs. Most importantly, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against anyone that develops or promotes non-Microsoft software.

A technical oversight committee will ensure Microsoft's compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement, and competitors will be allowed to sue Microsoft directly if they feel they've been treated unfairly. These concessions should keep this matter from ever reaching the federal level again, and will force Microsoft to become a more responsible industry leader.

Although these conditions may go further than Microsoft may have wished, it recognizes that settling the case sooner, is better than later. The competition should be granted access to the market, but Microsoft should also be allowed to enjoy the fruits of its labor. I believe that your settlement provides the middle ground.

Sincerely,

Kathie Graham